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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION Q CHINA'S INFLUENCE IN AFRICA -
TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: There were no papers Monday morning because of a press holiday. Top stories on TV news shows included the victory of the opposition DPJ-backed candidate in Sunday's gubernatorial election in Fukushima.

¶1. "Merits and Demerits of China's Africa Diplomacy" The business-oriented Nikkei editorialized (11/12): "China has stepped up its Africa diplomacy, hosting the China-Africa Cooperation Forum that brought the leaders of 48 African nations to Beijing. The Chinese government announced that it would double its aid to the continent while reaffirming enhanced cooperation. While the US and some European countries have criticized China for supporting abusers of human rights in order to secure energy supplies, China insists that it will not interfere in the domestic affairs of other nations....

"Western countries and Japan have called on African countries to promote democratization, establish transparency, and end corruption as preconditions for expanding economic assistance, as exemplified in a statement adopted at the conclusion of last year's G-8 leaders' meeting. In contrast, China's aid policy of 'noninterference' smacks of pandering and runs the risk of weakening efforts within Africa for reform. Greater economic assistance to oppressive nations like Sudan and Zimbabwe . . . may undermine China's image in the international community, which would not be in Beijing's long-term interest."

SCHIEFFER